

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
STEEL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2247  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004  
PRODUCTION AND RESERVE OF IRON ORE  
Fernandes Shri George;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar

**Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether excess production of iron ore in the country has caused a threat of extinction of iron ore reserves;
- (b) whether the Government propose to conduct any survey to explore new reserve of iron ore in the country;
- (c) the quantum of iron ore exported during each of the last three years and onwards alongwith the foreign exchange earned therein;
- (d) whether there is an increasing trend in the iron ore exports;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the export of good ore has adversely affected the competitiveness of Indian Steel Industry; and
- (g) if so, the action the Government propose to take on conservation and utilization of iron ore reserves?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India, various State Directorates of Geology & Mining and Mineral Exploration Agencies are carrying out exploration for minerals including iron ore as per the priorities fixed by Central Geological Programming Board and State Geological Programming Boards.

(c) The quantum of iron ore exported by India during each of the last three years along with the foreign exchange earned therein is as follows:

Year	Quantity Exported (million tonnes)	Foreign Exchange Earned (US \$ million)	Equivalent Value (Rupee Crores)
2001-02	41.64	688.60	3321.83
2002-03	48.02	796.85	3655.15
2003-04	62.58	1564.91	7042.08
2004-05			
Apr`04-Jul`04	16.12	N.A.	2621.97

Source : MMTC/DGCI&S

(d) & (e) Yes sir. There is an increase in demand for iron ore from China which has led to surge in iron ore exports. The following table will indicate the quantity of surge.

(Quantity in million tonnes)

Country	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
China	19.22	26.27	42.12

Source: Metal & Mineral Trading Corporation (MMTC) Ltd.

(f) No Sir. There is adequate production of iron ore in the country and domestic demand is being fully meet.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.